



Office of the Attorney General  
State of Texas

DAN MORALES  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 7, 1996

Mr. Kenneth C. Dippel  
Cowles & Thompson  
901 Main Street, Suite 4000  
Dallas, Texas 75202-3793

OR96-0670

Dear Mr. Dippel:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 39401.

The City of Addison (the "city") received a request for information about sex offenders living in a particular geographical area. You ask whether section 5 of article 6252-13c.1, V.T.C.S., requires the city to release information about sex offenders required to register under the statute prior to September 1, 1995. You have submitted the information at issue to this office for review.

Section 552.101 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure "information considered to be confidential by law, either constitutional, statutory, or by judicial decision." Article 6252-13c.1, V.T.C.S., which was amended by the Seventy-fourth Legislature, requires sex offenders to register with the local law enforcement authority in the municipality or county in which the sex offender intends to reside. *Id.* § 2(a). Registration consists of completing a form created and disseminated by the Department of Public Safety (the "department"). *Id.* § 2(b).

When amending article 6252-13c.1, the Legislature made the following provision:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section, the change in law made by this Act to Article 6252-13c.1, Revised Statutes, applies only to a reportable conviction or adjudication as defined by Article 6252-13c.1, Revised Statutes, that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act or to an order of deferred adjudication for a person required to register under that article that is entered by the court on or after the effective date of this Act. A

reportable conviction or adjudication that occurs before the effective date of this Act or an order of deferred adjudication that is entered before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect when the conviction or adjudication occurred or the order was entered, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

Act of May 19, 1995, 74th Leg., R.S., ch. 258, § 16, 1995 Tex. Sess. Law Serv. 2197, 2205. The effective date for the amended statute is September 1, 1995. The registration information at issue relates to sex offenders who were convicted or whose cases were adjudicated prior to September 1, 1995. Release of this information is therefore governed by the law in effect prior to September 1, 1995.

Prior to its amendment by the Seventy-fourth Legislature, article 6252-13c.1 provided that a person who releases information required for sex offender registration to any person other than a law enforcement officer commits a Class B misdemeanor. Act of May 26, 1991, 72d Leg., R.S., ch. 572, § 1, 1991 Tex. Gen. Laws 2029, 2030, *amended by* Act of May 19, 1995, 74th Leg., R.S., ch. 258, § 6, 1995 Tex. Sess. Law Serv. 2197, 2201-02. Consequently, releasing the information at issue to the requestor would constitute a Class B misdemeanor. *Id.* Thus, the registration information for sex offenders convicted before September 1, 1995 is confidential and excepted from required public disclosure pursuant to section 552.101.

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Karen E. Hattaway  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

KEH/ch

Ref.: ID# 39401

Enclosure: Submitted document

cc: Ms. Lisa A. Coburn  
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(w/o enclosure)